



THE GRAPEVINE

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The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Yountville Veterans Home

January 22, 2009

Pathway Home holds its second Graduation Ceremony

Tom Johnson, California Secretary of Veterans Affairs, briefly summarized the history of Pathway Home when he stated, "Four years ago, Marcella McCormack and Bart Buechner at the Yountville Veterans Home came to us with the concept for a program for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans that they wanted to run at the Home. They wrote a Budget Change Proposal, or BCP to do it, but the State did not approve it, since they didn't

understand how a program like this would fit into the Home's mission, which they saw as caring for older disabled veterans in their later years. Then, the Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund offered to help fund the program, but we still couldn't do it within the State system. That's when Fred and his team came along, and opened the door to create a program that is not just good, but truly excellent. In remarks last week, Governor Schwarzenegger quoted Martin Luther King from one of his speeches about creating 'dikes of courage to keep out a flood of fear'. The Pathway Program is an example of a program that helps to build those dikes of courage."

"The Yountville home has a history of taking care of younger veterans in the past," said Marcella McCormack, Administrator, Veterans Home, "but we have gotten away from it and the Pathway Home is bringing us back. The Rotary Club has really stepped forward to support this program, and many other veterans and community organizations have also embraced and supported this program,"

Natalie Ng, daughter of Veterans Home resident Florence Chong, presented the Pathway Home with check for \$5000 to purchase laptop computers which are critical to the success of the program. Fred Gusman, Executive Director of Pathway Home, thanked her for the contribution and thanked Home Member Dick Hum and AMVETS for the donation of gift certificates to the Home's exchange. "We try not to make it (the Pathway Home program) feel like a hospital... it is a large extended family. Like any family, there are some you really enjoy and some who get on your last nerve," said Gusman.

Comments from the Pathway Home graduates mirrored the success of the program.

"The staff here show you every day that they put your needs ahead of theirs". The Pathway Home is not just saving soldiers, it's saving whole extended families. It helped make life better for my nephews and nieces, it touches many lives that you never even see." – Matt

"I consider everyone here to be family. I was a lost, slipping away....my counselor at VA sent me here, I learned a lot." – Ronnie

"I had totally and literally wrecked my life. I decided I would be better off as a homeless veteran in San Francisco than doing what I was doing in Southern California. I couldn't even get into a homeless shelter, but then someone called the Pathway Home for me, and I had a bed here in 48 hours. The Pathway Home helped me preserve my family. I'm going to work with the (Napa) rotary to put together a program to help other veterans coming here, to help them get experience - you ain't seen the last of me." – Phil

"My life was a wreck, and I was prepared to throw it all away. Iraq took my life away from me, the Pathway Home gave it back" – Brandon



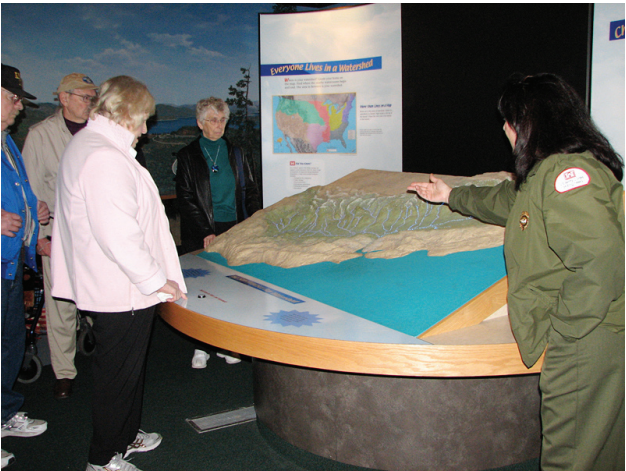
Touring the San Francisco Bay’s Delta Model

By Lou Zauner

Did you know:

- * That San Francisco Bay and the regional Bays are really “Estuaries”?
- * That the Delta drains over 40% of California’s fresh water and that many of the more-than 60 Delta islands are 8-15 feet below sea level?
- * That 70% of the Bay’s depth is 12 feet or less and only 20% more than 30 feet deep?

On Friday, January 9, sixteen Home Members entered the world of water management and exploration. The tour began with Park Ranger Linda Holt who gave a brief explanation of the facility. The tour began with a model of the watershed from the Sierras, through the rivers and waterways, to the islands, sloughs, and channels before emptying into San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

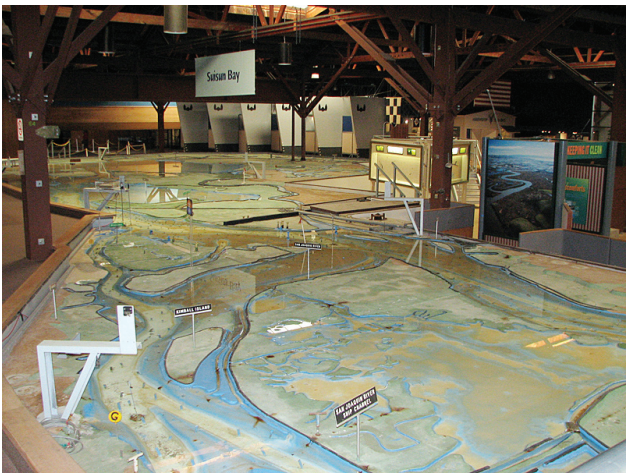


Park Ranger Linda Holt points out the San Francisco estuary and Monterey Bay with the Sierra Mountains in the background and the Pacific Ocean in the foreground.

Then we saw the Bay Model where we learned about the tides, water mixtures, and depths and speeds of the waters in the 1,600 square miles of waterways. This representation of San Francisco Bay and the Delta covers 1/5 acres and can simulate tides, currents, river inflows and other variables. It was built in 1957 from 286 five-ton concrete slabs and took the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 3½ years to build. Meters and monitors that measure the flow, velocity and salinity of water are all controlled by a central computer. For many years the model was of great value in waterway research and planning to control levees and fresh water retention. Now replaced by computer-based models, the Bay Model is primarily used for public education.

The last part of the tour features the World War II years of *Marinship*, the original occupant of the complex. From 1942 to 1945 the 20,000 employees of Marinship built 93 of the 2,700 Liberty ships, only two of which still exist. Artifacts and pictures recall those years when 61% of the shipyard employees were women and America was absorbed in fighting a war in both Europe and Asia.

A visit to the San Francisco Bay-Delta Model is an exciting educational adventure--not to be missed. The Bay Model Visitor Center is located at 2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito and provides recorded information by phone at (415) 332-3871; or website www.spn.usace.army.mil/bmvc.



Above the Bay Model, a working hydraulic model of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta System. Below Ranger Holt dyes the water to demonstrate the tidal drifts.



Following the tour Home Members enjoy their bag lunches by Richardson Bay. The San Francisco Bay's Delta Model is located in Sausalito next to Richardson Bay.

Dix Bruce Band again brings New Orleans to the Home

By Lou Zauner

If you close your eyes and listen to Dixieland performed by the Dix Bruce Band, you feel you’re in a jazz parlor on Bourbon Street. In Holderman Hospital Recreation Area on Thursday, January 8th the Dix Bruce Band mesmerized the audience and kept toes tapping and feet stomping.

Dix Bruce plays guitar and mandolin, and launches a vocal or two - *All of Me* brought applause. John Hunt brings out the best with his trombone ... *Let The Good Times Roll* ... and they do. John’s vocal for *Sheik of Araby* is a knockout! Andrew Storer also does vocals and plays trumpet. *Dream Your Troubles Away* never sounded better. Gary Newman is genius on the piano. Beginning with a somber *Liebesdraum* (Loves Dream),



he segues into a wild boogie/ragtime version. Marty Eggers, bass fiddle, and Steve Apple, drums and cymbals, put the zing to the arrangements. Renee Deeter clarinet and saxophone, and a performance never concludes without enthusiastic requests for her *St. Infirmary Blues*.

Other great selections that wow the audience include *Dinah*, *Sweet Georgia Brown*, *Lady Be Good*, *My Blue Heaven* and their classic closing number, *When The Saints Come Marchin’ In*. It’s hard to believe that the *Dix Bruce Dixieland and Traditional Jazz Band* can get any



Thank you to Walt Disney Studios!

A number of DVDs arrived from Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment accompanied by a note from Bob Chapek which said, “Please accept these DVDs as a token of our appreciation for everything you have done for your country.”

Blood Drive

Please mark your calendar and plan to donate at the next Veterans Home Blood Drive on Friday, February 6 in the Hospital Rec. Area from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

better, but it does! So, for now, goodbye to Bourbon Street, Jackson Square and New Orleans; and thank you to *Friends of the Veterans Home* who bring us this extraordinary entertainment.

❀ Paws with Brandy ❀

Finding Your Inner Dog

I like to watch you, dearies. If you pay attention to faces and bodies, you can learn a lot about what's going on inside. It's especially interesting to see what happens when one of the therapy animals comes to the hospital. People's faces light up in a special way. I've wondered why this is.

It has to do, I've decided, with focus. Human's lives are so busy that they are seldom free to give each other their full attention. They have many things on their minds, and they think they fool each other by listening with half an ear and watching with half an eye. They

don't fool anybody. People learn to settle for what they can get until a nicely socialized animal walks into the room. Then, they realize the difference. When a dog-friend greets you, nothing else exists for that animal but you.

Everyone realizes what a gift they've received, and they react with ... joy. For a moment, the world stops while two beings enjoy each other.

There are movies, books and television programs about teaching dogs. Perhaps there should be some on learning from dogs. Let me start



you off, darlings. Find that quiet place within you and learn to reach it with a single, deep breath. Start from there so when you interact with another, you are coming from a clear and peaceful place and you are ready to share your most valuable possession. *Yourself.* ❀

A Nearby Ancient Egyptian Exploration

By Lou Zauner

On Tuesday, January 6, our Driver Maria Russell did know "the way to San Jose." With high spirits and a multitude of mummy puns, eighteen of us arrived at San Jose's *Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum and Planetarium* to be introduced to the Ancient Civilization and Dynasties of Egypt.

It was humbling to learn that the Nile Valley had a culture of hunter-gatherers and fishers which replaced a grain-grinding culture as early as the 10th millennium BC. Then around 8,000 BC, the pastoral lands desiccated to form the Sahara desert, forcing early tribal people to migrate to the Nile River where they developed an agricultural economy and a more centralized society.

Egypt was displayed in four galleries: Gallery A - The Afterlife; Gallery B - Daily Life and Trade; Gallery C - Kingship and Religion; Gallery D - Shrines (Sekhmet & Aten).

The Early Dynasties began 3050 BC to 2663 BC; *The Old Kingdom* (also known as *The Pyramid Age*), from 2663 to 2195 BC; *First Intermediate Period*, from 2195 BC to 2066 BC; and *Middle Kingdom*, from 2066 BC to 1650 BC. You can step back in time by walking through a full-scale replica of a noble's rock-cut tomb. Its walls are covered with images of daily life in the Nile Valley. Egypt's renowned view of afterlife and its elaborate burial and mummification practices are displayed through



The famous coffin of boy-king Tutankhamun (King Tut) made of solid gold inlaid with precious colored glass and jewels.

extensive collections of human and animal mummies, and detailed funerary boats and models. The colorful jewelry and artifacts demonstrated the skill of these ancient artisits.

The Museum is located in the gardens of Rosicrucian Park amidst buildings inspired by Ancient Egyptian temples, elaborate fountains, colossal statues of Egyptian gods and more. More information and a virtual tour of the museum is at www.egyptianmuseum.org

Left the coffin of the Lady Mesheti from Asyut, Period: Middle Kingdom, 11th-12th Dynasties (2066 BC-1781 BC)

Right the cast of Seti II, the 5th ruler of the 19th Dynasty, 1203 BC - 1197 BC.



Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum and Planetarium



By Lou Zauner

A surprise special luncheon for Veterans Home Members was featured on Thursday, January 15, when 400 pounds of fresh Dungeness crab was served in the Main Dining Hall on red-patterned clothed tables with a choice of red or white wine. But the crab wasn't alone. The regular serving line was in operation with pasta, meatballs, sauce and garlic bread. Just like Fisherman's Wharf and North Beach San Francisco!

As Chief of Dietary and Food Services, Sharon Parda explained that 60 pounds of fresh crab had been donated to the Veterans Home by Osprey Seafood Market for Christmas. The Christmas Menu had already been set and prepared so the crab was served as a surprise on the day after Christmas. Frank Mirenda, Winery Operations Manager of Andretti Winery, had donated a generous amount of Pasta for the Celebrity Chef's Luncheon in November but it was not was served at that time. Therefore, back at the Home, the decision was made to repay the generosity of Osprey Seafood Market with the large order of fresh crab. The donated pasta meal was served and that savings was used to purchase the Dungeness crab.

Thank you to Frank Mirenda, Osprey Seafood Market and the Dietary Staff for providing this special luncheon treat.

Community Events for Veterans Home Members and Yountville Residents

Movies in Holderman Rec Area

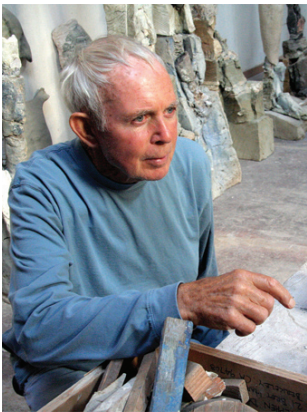
| Date | Time | Movie |
|-------------|------|-------------------------|
| Fri, Jan 23 | 6pm | Mamma Mia! |
| Mon, Jan 26 | 6pm | My Dream is Yours |
| Tue, Jan 27 | 6pm | Gunfight at OK Corral |
| Wed, Jan 28 | 6pm | The Taming of the Shrew |
| Fri, Jan 30 | 6pm | The Dark Knight |

January Community Events

| Date | Time | Event |
|--------|--------|---|
| 25 Sun | 2:00pm | “Murder at the Howard Johnson’s” at Dreamweaver’s Theater. Tickets \$18, Home Members \$10. |

Napa Valley Symphony Strings presents *Heart Strings* February 15 at 3:00pm

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Nocturne | Alexander Borodin/arr. Malcolm Sargent |
| Sinfonia | Antonio Vivaldi |
| Adagietto from Symphony No. 5 | Gustav Mahler |
| Serenade, op. 48 | Piorr Ilyich Tchaikovsky |



Napa Valley Museum presents

Stephen De Staebler’s “New Work”, a special exhibition of 21 recent pieces of sculptures

January 24, 2009 - March 1, 2009

An opening reception featuring “New Work” by noted San Francisco Bay Area Artist Stephen De Staebler, will held on Saturday, January 24 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. at the Napa Valley Museum. The wine and hors d’ oeuvres reception is free for members; non-member admission is \$4.50.

The artist has assembled discarded fragments of previous ceramic sculpture from the last forty-five years using bits and pieces of variegated glazes, textures and shapes as they arise from their solemn totems.

Special Events for Residential Care Members

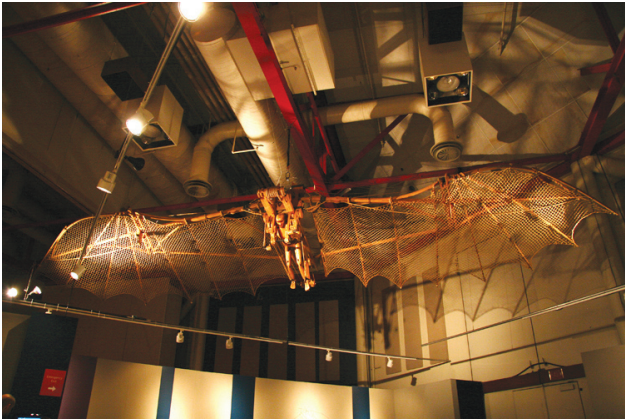
| January | | |
|----------|---------|--|
| Date | Time | Event |
| 23 Fri | 11:00am | “USO Show” in San Francisco |
| 23 | 12:00pm | Military Museum & Store |
| 25 Sun | 1:00pm | Dreamweaver’s Theater |
| 26 Mon | 10:00am | Vacaville Premium Outlets |
| 28 Thu | 6:00pm | Napa Bowl |
| February | | |
| Date | Time | Event |
| 2 Mon | 10:00am | American Canyon WalMart shopping |
| | 5:00pm | Warriors Basketball game |
| 3 Tue | 8:30am | Conservatory of Flowers & DeYoung Museum |
| 7 Sat | 9:30am | Golden Gate Fields |
| 9 Mon | 10:00am | American Canyon WalMart shopping |
| 10 Tue | 5:30pm | Pinochle Tournament in HRA |
| 11 Wed | 9:00am | Allied Council in HRA |
| | | Jewelry Sale in HRA |
| 15 Sun | 7:30am | Napa Sr. Center Breakfast |

HRA: Hospital Rec. Area. For information about off grounds trip and to sign up, call the Activities Office at 944-4900.

LEONARDO: 500 Years Into the Future

by Nancy Bueno

On Tuesday, December 16th, Home Members traveled to San Jose for the LEONARDO: 500 Years Into the Future exhibit at the *The Tech Museum of Innovation*. The exhibit is the most comprehensive collection of the innovative art, science and engineering works of Leonardo da Vinci and other Renaissance artist-engineers. It combines nearly 200 artifacts, including drawings, sculptures, and more than 100 life-size working models, hands-on interactive machines and displays, multimedia presentations and works of art based on Leonardo da



Probably one of the most recognizable of Leonardo’s drawings is the pedal-driven flying machine. As this life-size model illustrates, Leonardo’s projected flying machines had little chance of success, despite their impeccable mechanical design. Their lack of viability was due to the disproportion between the force available to lift the machines (i.e. human power) and their massive weight.



Thank you, AMVETS, for your continued support of the Yountville Veterans Home Media Program

Left: Sforza Horse – The iconic symbol of the Leonardo: 500 Years Into The Future exhibition at The Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose. The model is 24 feet tall, steel and Fiberglass construction and has a total weight of 20 tons; the base is 33,000 pounds and the horse, 6,600 pounds. It required two ocean containers to ship from Florence, Italy and was then assembled locally by Italian artisans.

Vinci’s engineering, scientific and art principles. More than half the pieces in the collection have never before been seen by the public.

The over 30,000 square-foot room was a maze of dividers with each turn giving a tempting glimpse into the next exhibit. The dividers held video stations to learn more about the exhibits, animations to help explain the processes and reproductions of the magnificent Da Vinci illustrations.

The exhibit is making its one and only U.S. stop as a result of collaboration among The Tech, Team San Jose, The City of San Jose and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency. Closing date has been extended so you can still see the exhibit through January 25th.

January Pinochle tournament results

- 1st Steve Springston & Cliff Lindsey each won a \$30.00 gift certificate to Wal-Mart.
- 2nd Ray Poznick & Dave Maguire each won a \$20.00 gift certificate to Trader Joe’s

Next tournament will be held on Tuesday, February 10th in the HRA at 5:30 pm *Sharp*. See you there!